

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 13, 16-20, 23, 24, 33-36, 39, 42, and 45 have been amended in this reply. Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 12, 27-32, and 37 have been canceled. New claims 46 and 47 have been added. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9-11, 13-26, 33-36, and 38-47 therefore will be pending upon entry of the above amendments.

Figures 2 and 9 have been objected to as containing incorrect reference numerals or lead lines that are not correctly drawn. Corrected versions of Figures 2 and 9 that address these objections are submitted herewith.

The Examiner has requested that the flexible region 20i depicted in Figure 6C be indicated with lines showing its extent. In response, Applicants have added lines to Figure 6C denoting the relatively thin region of the PCB 20 depicted in Figure 6D and referenced in paragraph fifty-seven of the specification. Figure 6B has been amended in a similar manner, for consistency.

The Examiner has inquired whether the board 50 and contacts 63 are properly shown in perspective in Figure 9. Applicants note that Figure 9 is a magnified view of the area designated "C" in Figure 8A. As Figure 8A is a perspective view, Applicants respectfully submit that the board 50 and contacts 63 are properly shown in perspective in Figure 9.

The specification has been objected to due to informalities appearing in paragraphs 56, 59, 61, 70, 72, 76, and 78. Applicants thank the Examiner for bringing these informalities to Applicants' attention. Paragraphs 56, 59, 61, 70, 72, 76, and 78 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to the use of the term "contact fingers 32" because the figures do not depict the contact fingers 32 as having a free end. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art of connector design would not understand the term "contact finger" to require a free end.

The Examiner has objected to the use of the term "angled portion 66c" in describing the signal contacts 66, because Figure 9 shows the angled portion 66c "to be flat and coplanar with adjacent portion 66b." Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Applicants respectfully note that the angled portion 66c of the exemplary embodiment of the signal

contact 66 is angled, for example, by approximately ninety degrees in relation to the beam portion 66d.

Claim 24 has been objected to because the Examiner contends that the ground plate recited therein cannot be both mounted on and spaced apart from the second side of the printed circuit board of the plug. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants respectfully submit that the ground plate can be mounted on the second side of the printed circuit board using, for example, spacers that separate the ground plate from the printed circuit board, as depicted in Figure 12 of the original application.

In the interest of advancing prosecution of the application, however, claim 24 has been amended to recite “a ground plate mechanically coupled to and spaced apart from a second side of the printed circuit board.” Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment does not narrow the scope of claim 24.

Claim 39 has been objected to because that claim recites a “fist . . . surface.” Claim 39 has been amended to change the term “fist” to “first.”

Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 25-31, 33-39, 42, 43, and 45 have been rejected in the office action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,663,426 (Hasircoglu). Claims 11, 40, and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hasircoglu. Claims 2, 3, 22, 23, and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hasircoglu in view of U.S. patent no. 6,083,047 (Paagman).¹

Claims 5, 9, 10, 12-21, and 32 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner’s statement that claims 5, 9, 10, 12-21, and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 32, prior to cancellation, recited “wherein the forward portion of the circuit board is thinner than a remainder of the circuit board.” Claim 1 has been amended to recite “the flexible portion [of the printed circuit board] being thinner than a remainder of the printed circuit board.” Claim 42 has been amended to recite “the portion of the first printed

¹ The office action does not identify the patent number of the Paagman reference upon which this rejection is based. Two patents naming Paagman as inventor (nos. 6,083,047 and 5,924,899) are listed on the initialed Form PTO-1449 Modified that accompanied the office action. For the purposes of this reply, Applicants have proceeded as if the rejection is based on U.S. patent no. 6,083,047. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner inform Applicants if the rejection is not based on this patent.

DOCKET NO.: FCI-2656/C3138
Application No.: 10/626,960
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PATENT

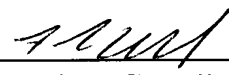
circuit board being thinner than a remainder of the first printed circuit board.” Claim 45 has been amended to recite “the flexible portion of the printed circuit board being thinner than a remainder of the printed circuit board.” Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended claims 1, 42, and 45, and the claims that depend directly or indirectly from amended claims 1 and 42, are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) is respectfully requested.

New claim 46 includes all of the limitations of canceled claim 12 and its base claim (claim 1). Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 46 (and claims 13-16, which have been amended to depend therefrom) are allowable.

New claim 47 recites “the printed circuit board having a wave-shaped flexible portion that permits the portion of the printed circuit board to translate in relation to the housing.” Applicants respectfully submit that Hariscoglu and Paagman, either alone or in combination, neither teach nor suggest this limitation. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that new claim 47 is allowable.

A notice of allowability is respectfully submitted.

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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 2, 6A, 6B, 9, and 13. The sheets, which include Figs. 2, 6A, 6B, 9, 12, and 13, replace the original sheets including Figs. 2, 6A, 6B, 9, 12, and 13.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)